THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A Technical Working Group consisting of a single member viz. Secretary Planning Commission was set up to go into the suggestions submitted by All Assam Students Union/State Government of Assam in pursuance of clause 7 of the Assam Accord.

(b) The recommendations of the Technical Working Group were considered and as a result following projects|schemes were indentified for expeditious action:—

(i) Rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra river at Jogighopa.

(ii) Gas utilisation, gas pipe-line and gas thermal project including the one at Kathalguri.

(iii) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)

(iv) Improvement and modernisation of selected specialities in medical and health institutions.

(v) Reactivation of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board and its flood control activity.

Seizure of hashish near Gorakhpur

*415. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 230 Kgs. of hashish worth Rs. 58 lakhs was seized by the Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau near Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh as reported in The Hindustan Times of the 21st Fabruary, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection;

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter and if so, with what results; and

(e) what is the number of cases pertaining to smuggling of narcotics which have come to light during the last two years and the steps being taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The officers of Varanasi Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau, working on an intelligence developed and processed over a period of time, had seized 230 kgs. of Nepalese hashish (Charas) from under a culvert near Ghewari village in Gorakhpur district of U.P. on 20.2.1989. The seized charas was in the shape of video casettes and casette shaped bags each weighing 1 kg., further wrapped in polythene paper. The contraband was smuggled by an Indian party from Nepal and was to be shifted from the place of storage under the culvert when the same was seized. A jeep was seen arriving at the spot but sensing danger, sped away, without coming near the storage point. No arrests have been made in this connection. Efforts are on for expediting the investigation.

No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as this is dependent upon various factors like purity, place of origin, local demand and supply, etc.

The total number of seizure cases booked during 1987, 1988, 1989 (upto February) by various enforcement agencies all over the country are as under:—

Years	No. of cases booked
1987	1,829
1988	1,770
1989 (February) . . .	127

Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially in and around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral cooperation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under

the umbrella of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto maximum period of two years for drug-related crimes. 250 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

For the purpose of preventive detention for the maximum period provided under the Act, the inland area 100 kms. in width from the Indo-Nepal border in the States of Bihar, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been defined as 'areas highly vulnerable to illicit traffic'. Further, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988, recently passed by Parliament, inter alia, provides for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs and also far forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug-related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Besides, a High Powered Indian delegation, headed by Minister of State for finance (Revenue) visited Nepal for talks in June, 1988. Nepal and India have agreed to extend co-operation for curbing drug trafficking.

The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.

Financial assistance to Victims

*416. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will provide credit to Vietnam and also extend technical assistance in new areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India will provide similar assistance to some other South-Eastern countries also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government of India would be providing fresh Government to Government credits to Vietnam upto Rs. 200 million. Other areas in which India has agreed to assist Vietnam by way of supply of equipment/deputation of Indian experts/training of Vietnamese, include oil exploration, and Science and Technology.

(c) and (d) ASEAN countries, as also laos and Kampuchea, have been given technical assistance under ITEC Programme in the shape of training in India in mutually agreed areas/deputation of Indian experts and in cases of Laos, Kampuchea and Thailand some equipments also. In Kampuchea Government of India is also involved in the restoration of the Angkor Vat under ITEC programme.

मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त की नियुक्ति से संबंधित विधि के बारे में निर्वाचन आयोग के सुझाव

*417. सरदार जंगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि निर्वाचन आयोग ने पक्षपात संबंधी आलोचना को समाप्त करने के लिए मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त की नियुक्ति से संबंधित विधियों में संशोधन करने हेतु सरकार को कतिपय सुझाव दिए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार को आयोग से ये सुझाव कब प्राप्त हुए थे;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उक्त सुझावों को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?